NEWS WEEKLY • JULY 21, 1952

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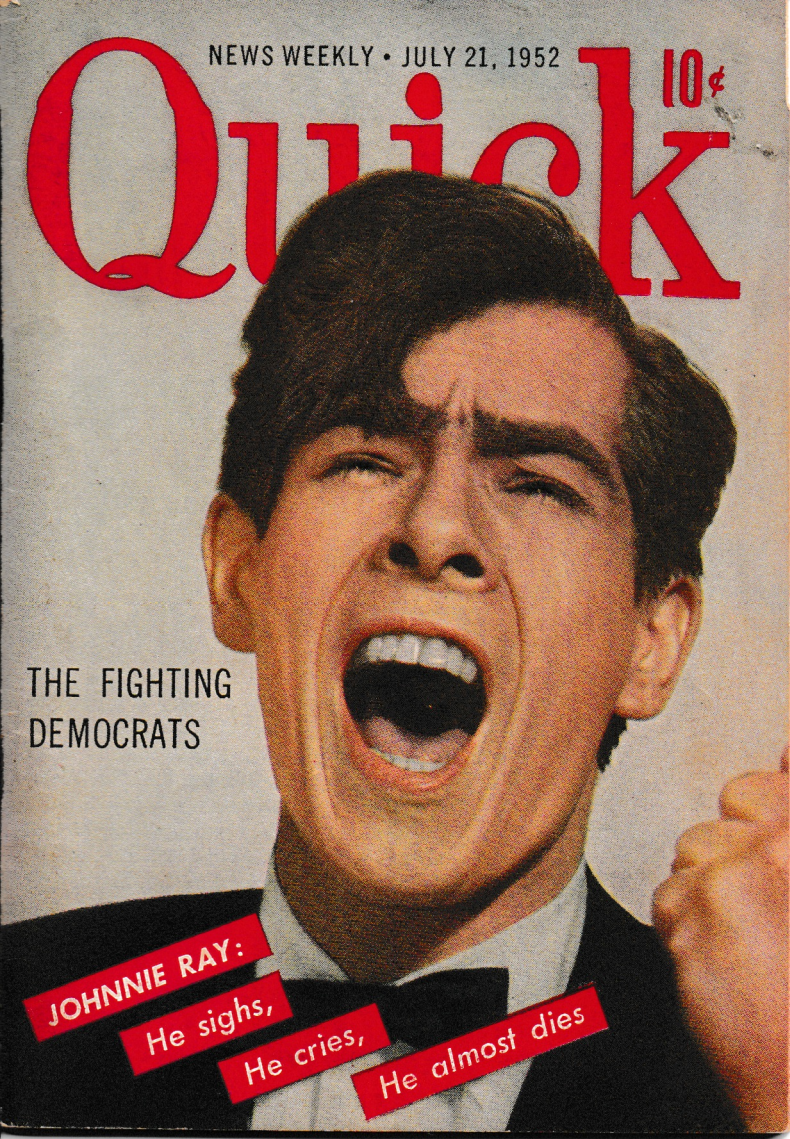
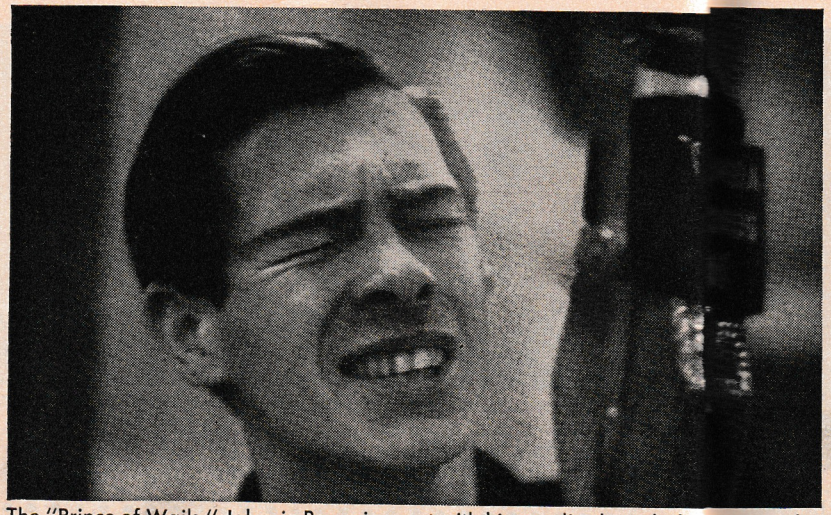


THE FIGHTING DEMOCRATS

JOHNNIE RAY:
He sighs,
He cries,
He almost dies



The "Prince of Wails," Johnnie Ray, gives out with his peculiar brand of...

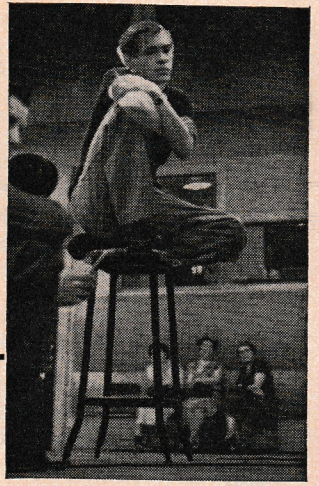
...vocalizing at a recording session while his bride, Marilyn, listens.

JOHNNIE RAY: he sighs . . . he cries . . . he almost dies

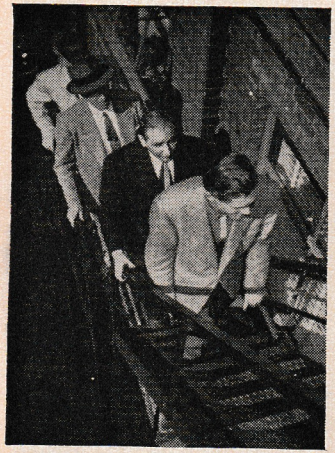
Before making his latest record, Johnnie is coached by Columbia's Mitch Miller . . .

This week, eight months after Johnnie Ray (*front cover*) sobbed his way into the nation's loudspeakers with a record titled *Cry*, sales of his five Columbia recordings reached the staggering total of 5 million. At 25, the tantrum-tossing tempest from Oregon was the most talked-about, imitated and caricatured character in the entertainment world. Newsmen had dubbed him "Mr. Emotion," "Mr. Commotion," and "Paid Public Weeper."

Bawling his heart out to music has jumped Ray's annual gross from $550 to $1 million in a scant two years. But Ray still feels the need to justify himself: "A lot of cynics have spread the rumor that I just (*cont. on p. 60*)



. . . **After** recording session, Ray sits glumly, listening to a playback of tune he's sung.



Avoiding Fans during a stint at New Haven's WAVZ, Johnnie enters station via fire-escape, gets nabbed nonetheless.

Caught by Fans who crowd outside broadcast booth, Ray gives in, faces them, says he attributes success "... to God."

(*cont. from p. 59*) got out of an asylum a year ago. That's not true. It's just that I'm on an emotional island. I can't get to people and they can't get to me, except through my singing."

In contrast to this heartfelt statement, Ray has been known to look out on a mass of female fans his sobbing has set to screaming, and murmur: "Ridiculous! It's just ridiculous!"

The Fearsome Power

Even those closest to Ray are not sure his vocal agony is sincere. Some fellow entertainers swear that he has finished a tear-drenched performance, turned to them, and winked. Others claim they've seen him take hours to pull himself together after a song session.

Ray himself does little to clear up the confusion, "I just let my emotions out," Johnnie says, "and the money rolls in. It's a fearsome power."

Nude Trouble—I

British TV viewers who looked forward to seeing nude showgirls in a show from a Paris nightclub were disappointed. The French director decided nudity was too much, clothed the girls. Before the show—part of a series designed to give a true picture of Paris life—a representative of the nightclub said: "We will do our best to make it seem like Montmartre." He looked at the clothed girls and muttered: "It won't be quite the same atmosphere."

Nude Trouble—II

Hedy Lamarr wasn't in the nude in most of the scenes in *Ecstasy*, the film's producer, Josef Auerbach, revealed. The much-banned 1931 film brought Hedy fame, and an unwanted type of publicity. But, Auerbach now claims, "a stand-in was used. . . . Hedy . . . didn't have such a good figure then."